

North Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Strategic Plan for Individuals with Hearing Loss

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North Dakota School for the Deaf Parent-Infant/Outreach Specialists

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Introduction

The North Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach team addresses specific areas for continued expansion:

- ❖ ***Academic Excellence*** – addressing expectations, standards, programs and personnel
- ❖ ***Comprehensive Services for Community and Parents*** – addressing the facilitation, education and preparation of individuals who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing, their families and consumers within the community.
- ❖ ***Resources and Professional Development*** – addressing recruitment, training and retention of all personnel, and material procurement.

*In order to continue the services already being provided and to expand our services while accomplishing these priorities, it is crucial that adequate funding be assured.

Outreach's Fundamental Core Beliefs

- ✓ *High educational standards must be available to all children including opportunities for cultural, social and academic development with emphasis on language and literacy skills.*
- ✓ *Individualized services leading to successful independent living must be determined by the child's needs.*
- ✓ *Adequate funding is imperative for the education of all children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing.*
- ✓ *Understanding the parents are the primary educators, immediate intervention support and training must be provided by professionals with specialized training in the area of hearing loss upon identification to enable learning.*
- ✓ *Home, school and community must collaborate to ensure that students learn and transition through a wide array of experiences and opportunities.*
- ✓ *The Deaf/Hard of Hearing community is utilized and regarded as a valuable resource.*

Goal One: Provide early intervention services for children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing, ages birth to five

Quality services may include:

- State mandated standards to meet federal requirements
- Family support and training surrounding the unique needs of children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing
- Intensive language development in the selected communication mode
- Collaboration of agencies responsible for children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing, ages birth to five
- Ongoing training for service providers working with children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing and their families
- Support of age appropriate skills
- Create satellite programming for three to five year old children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing and develop curriculum which embraces all communication options
- Build LAF (Language and Auditory Fun) into a consistent, regional program • *Play Groups*
- Continued involvement with the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) system and lead the way for early intervention of children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing

Goal Two: Develop and support quality programs for individuals who are deaf and/or hard of hearing to promote opportunities to acquire effective communication skills and equal access.

Quality services may include:

- Increase capacity to provide itinerate ongoing direct services to districts unable to obtain their own Teacher of the Deaf, Interpreters, etc.
- Access to the entire educational experience
- Provision for various student learning styles
- Parental involvement
- Collaboration of agencies and utilization of resources
- Use of deaf mentors and role models
- Emphasis on development of language/literacy skills
- Post-secondary options to become productive citizens in society
- All students will be provided the opportunity to explore all modes of communication, oral to American Sign Language in an objective manner
- Be instrumental in establishing a connection between families of children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing throughout the state (i.e.

Hands and Voices, parents' program, transition programs, sign language programs, etc.)

- Develop short term programs (i.e. Summer school opportunities, leadership program, transition program, sign language program, etc.
- Continuation and expansion of adult services
 - Collaborate with Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Auditory Habilitation
 - Prevention of noise induced hearing loss

Goal Three: Provide access to current and emerging technologies

Quality services may include:

- "Tele" Deaf Education – Globalization
 - Academic Classes
 - Speech Therapy
 - North Africa
- A comprehensive plan of technology will be provided that assesses the needs and provides training for students who are deaf and/or hard of hearing
- Current educational information on changing technology will be maintained and expanded to include:
 - IVN
 - Remote Real Time Online Captioning (RROC)
 - Captioned Media
 - Computer Technology
 - Audiological/Amplification technologies
 - Assistive and Alerting devices in homes, workplace and communities
 - Production of informational DVDs
 - IPODs
 - ICHAT, SKYPE.com
 - Webcam/Video Conferencing
 - Production of Webinars
 - Modules of Learning
 - Tech Lab Boxes
- Re-establishing a Hearing Aid/FM Loaner Bank

• Remote Captioning

Goal Four: Develop and maintain a coordinated statewide communication network

Quality services may include:

- Hire and train marketing expert
- Provide single contact source for comprehensive information and services
- Form a stakeholder committee including LEA's, parents, Department of Education Representatives, Early Intervention providers, Teachers of the Deaf, Interpreters, NDSD Administrators, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
- To continue to improve NDSD website describing and detailing activities of the Outreach
- Become a central site for events in Deaf Education
- Further produce materials for dissemination
- Creating a centralized regional center
 - Investigate the possibilities of telephone distribution, operation of video relay services, etc.

Goal Five: Parents and consumers will be provided necessary support and training

Quality services may include:

- Expand education regarding laws and accessibility (Section 504, IDEA, ADA)
- Provide information about the importance of appropriate services and the impact of hearing loss
- Address the diverse needs of families
- Students who are deaf and/or hard of hearing will be able to access the deaf community and events in a variety of settings

Goal Six: Ensure that all staff is qualified and appropriately trained.

Quality services may include:

- All interpreters and support staff must meet minimum standards
- All teachers need to be trained in an understanding of the basic needs of children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing
- Training may be provided on laws such as IDEA, ADA and Section 504
- All teachers of students who are deaf and/or hard of hearing must hold minimum standards

- Ongoing evaluation of new and existing staff must be provided
- Develop and implement a statewide system to provide training in modes of communications for the deaf and/or hard of hearing
- Develop a statewide resource network, allowing a single contact source
- Ensure that modern technology, equipment and training is in place for service providers
- Establish a statewide conference for Deaf Educators, Interpreters, and related fields working with individuals who are deaf and/or hard of hearing